

What is claimed:

1. A suture locking device comprising:
a longitudinal retaining member having first and second ends;
5 a support member having first and second recesses that are
diametrically opposite to each other and have center points that are coaxial,
where the first and second ends of the retaining member are
releasably positioned within the first and second recesses of the support
member.
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2. The suture locking device of claim 1 where the support member
has a geometric or arcuate shape.
3. The suture locking device of claim 1 where the support member
15 has an arcuate shape and a geometric cross section.
4. The suture locking device of claim 1 where the support member
has a rectangular shape and a geometric cross section.
- 20 5. The suture locking device of claim 1 where the retaining member
has a geometric cross section.
6. The suture locking device of claim 1 where the retaining member
has an opening that extends from the surface of the retaining member to an
25 inner point on the retaining member.
7. The suture locking device of claim 6 where the width of the
opening is sized to permit entrance of at least one surgical suture.

8. The suture locking device of claim 1 where the recesses on the support member are geometrically shaped.

5 9. The suture locking device of claim 1 where the recesses on the support member are non-circular.

10. The suture locking device of claim 1 where the recesses on the support member are asymmetric.

10 11. The suture locking device of claim 1 where the recesses on the support member are keyed.

15 12. The suture locking device of claim 1 where first and second end of the retaining member are non-circular.

13. The suture locking device of claim 1 where the first and second end of the retaining member have asymmetric cross sections.

20 14. The suture locking device of claim 1 where first and second end of the retaining member are keyed.

15. The suture locking device of claim 1 where the centerpoints of the first and second recesses are coaxial

25 16. The suture locking device of claim 1 where the support member has at least two angled surfaces.

17. A suture locking device comprising:

a longitudinal retaining member having first and second ends;

a support member having first and second recesses that are

5 diametrically opposite to each other and have center points that are coaxial, where the support member is releasably secured to hold the first and second ends of the retaining member within the first and second recesses of the support member.

10 18. A method of closing an incision, comprising the steps of:

a) suturing the incision with a suture to form a closed incision;

b) introducing the portion of the suture that remains at the final suture exit from the tissue surface, to a longitudinal retaining member having first and second ends;

15 c) wrapping the suture around the retaining member by rotating the retaining member in the direction of the closed incision;

d) guiding the retaining member along the path formed by the suture to the closed incision;

20 e) positioning the first and second ends of the retaining member in first and second recesses of a support member, where the first and second recesses are diametrically opposite to each other and have center points that are coaxial, to form a suture locking device where the retaining member and support member define a free area, such that the final suture exit is bounded by or is adjacent to
25 the free area.